

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 04001 01 OF 02 141345Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /072 W
-----052233 141421Z /75

R 141317Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7589
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 04001

E.O. 11652: GDR
TAGS: PGOV, GW, SU, GE
SUBJECT: REPORT ON GAUS-HONECKER MEETING

REF: BERLIN 3530

1. FRG DEPUTY PERMREP BERTELE ON JUNE 13 PROVIDED US
WITH THE FOLLOWING BRIEF RUN-DOWN ON THE BACKGROUND TO
AND SUBSTANCE OF THE HONECKER-GAUS MEETING ON JUNE 12.
ACCORDING TO BERTELE, THE INITIATIVE FOR THE MEETING
CAME FROM THE EAST GERMAN SIDE APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AGO,
WITH THE GDR INDICATING HONECKER WISHED TO HAVE A TOUR
D'HORIZON WITH GAUS. THE EAST GERMANS SAID IF ANY NEWS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 04001 01 OF 02 141345Z

OF THE PROPOSED MEETING LEAKED TO THE PRESS BEFORE JUNE 12,
THE MEETING WOULD BE OFF. AT THE SAME TIME, DURING THE
JUNE 12 MEETING HONECKER INDICATED THE EAST GERMAN SIDE
HAD NO OBJECTION IF THE WEST GERMANS WISHED TO GIVE SOME
PUBLICITY TO THE MEETING, AND HONECKER AND GAUS TALKED
ABOUT HOW GAUS WOULD CHARACTERIZE IT. (EAST BERLIN PAPERS
JUNE 13 CARRIED VERY BRIEF FRONT PAGE ITEM ON THE MEETING,

NOTING ONLY THAT QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WERE DISCUSSED.) GAUS WAS ALONE FROM THE WEST GERMAN SIDE. HONECKER HAD WITH HIM FRANK-JOACHIM HERMANN, HIS CHEF DE CABINET (NOT JOACHIM HERMANN, FORMER EDITOR OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND NOW A FULL MEMBER AND SECRETARY OF THE SED POLITBUREAU). BERTELE ADDED THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN APPROXIMATELY 2 YEARS THAT GAUS HAD SEEN HONECKER PRIVATELY.

2. SINCE HONECKER HAD ASKED FOR THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO BERTELE, HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING SUBJECTS HE WISHED TO DISCUSS. IN ADDITION TO GIVING APPROVAL FOR THE GO-AHEAD ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN, HONECKER SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THE GDR TO AGREE TO THE PROJECT IF A NORTHERN ROUTE WERE PROPOSED BY THE FRG. THE WARTHA-HERLESHAUSEN PROJECT WAS RAISED, WITH GAUS APPARENTLY TAKING A SOMEWHAT RESERVED POSITION ON THE "GRAND SOLUTION" BY INDICATING BONN WOULD HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT COULD AFFORD IN TERMS OF THE COSTS FOR THE BERLIN-HAMBURG PROJECTS, ETC.

3. ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN DEMARCATION OF THE FRG-GDR BORDER, HONECKER AGREED TO SET ASIDE THE ELBE RIVER ISSUE, SO LONG AS THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT CAN BE DONE IN A "DECENT WAY". BERTELE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT THIS MEANT IN TERMS OF WHAT EITHER SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 04001 01 OF 02 141345Z

TO DO IN TERMS OF THE TYPE OF DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED OR THE LEVEL AT WHICH IT WOULD BE SIGNED.

4. HONECKER SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE MATTER OF WORK ON THE TRANSIT WATERWAYS BETWEEN THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN, AND IN EFFECT SAID IF THE FRG WAS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON THEIR RECONSTRUCTION, THE GDR WOULD BE FORCED TO RAISE TOLLS FOR THEIR USAGE. HONECKER ALSO EXPRESSED "EARNEST" GDR INTEREST IN BEING PREPARED TO OPEN THE TELTOW CANAL; HE ALSO SIGNALLED A GDR WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO AN FRG "ROOF" FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE WEST BERLIN SENAT AND THE GDR ON THE ISSUE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE FRG REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF WEST BERLINERS ON CONSULAR MATTERS (A SUBJECT THE WEST GERMANS HAD RAISED WITH BREZHNEV DURING HIS MAY VISIT TO BONN), HONECKER SAID HE HAD "TALKED WITH HIS ALLIES" AND PROFESSED TO SEE "LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL" (BONN 8039, 8564 AND 9188). IT WAS AGREED GAUS WOULD TALK TO GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NIER FURTHER ON THE SUBJECT.

6. HONECKER ALLEGEDLY MADE A "FUNDAMENTAL REMARK" ON HOW FRG-GDR RELATIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED, NOTING THAT THERE MUST BE RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE BORDERS BETWEEN THE 2 COUNTRIES, AND THAT SUCH OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS AS CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY MUST BE RESOLVED IN THE FUTURE. HE ALSO CALLED ONCE AGAIN FOR THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE SALZGITTER OFFICE.

7. ACCORDING TO BERTELE, GAUS ASKED ABOUT GDR MOVEMENT ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. HONECKER RESPONDED TO THE EFFECT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 04001 02 OF 02 141348Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /072 W

-----052260 141422Z /75

R 141317Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7590

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 04001

THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE TO WORK WITH WHAT THEY HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED, AND APPARENTLY GAVE NO INDICATION OF GDR WILLINGNESS TO MOVE IN THIS AREA.

8. HONECKER RAISED THE MATTER OF FRG MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE GDR WHICH HE CALLED "BAD". GAUS RESPONDED ALONG STANDARD LINES ABOUT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN THE FRG. (BERTELE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT EITHER SIDE RAISED THE REOPENING OF THE SPIEGEL OFFICE.)

9. HONECKER INDICATED HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH GAUS SEEING
NIER WHEN NECESSARY AS HIS GENERAL COUNTERPART ON FRG-
GDR RELATIONS IN ADDITION TO GAUS BEING THE CHIEF NEGO-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 04001 02 OF 02 141348Z

TIATOR WITH TECHNICAL-LEVEL GDR NEGOTIATORS. FOR THE FRG,
ACCORDING TO BERTELE, THIS ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES THE
NECESSARY "UMBRELLA" ROLE FOR GAUS AS WELL AS ENABLING
HIM TO KEEP CONTROL OF ALL THE VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS
UNDERWAY. FINALLY, GAUS TERMED AS "POSITIVE" THE TONE
AND SUBSTANCE OF HIS MEETING WITH HONECKER. BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN04001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780248-0661
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780662/aaaacbnj.tel
Line Count: 186
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: abacbc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BERLIN 3530
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2364637
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT ON GAUS-HONECKER MEETING
TAGS: PGOV, GE, SU, GC, (HONECKER, ERICH), (GAUS, GUENTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/abacbc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014